



Mayor's Message

"Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make a Hampton Inn a reality. Now let's move on to the next big thing. To do this, we have engaged NC State University to help us create an economic development initiative for Benson. I want to see our average household income double from \$24,000 to \$50,000 over the next 10 years. To do this we need more great jobs created in Benson and we need you. Look for opportunities to get involved through May. Let's work together to make our future brighter and be 'the best small town in North Carolina'"

-William

Black History Month Open House: Feb. 26th at 2pm

The Benson Museum of Local History and the Town of Benson proudly present the sixth annual Black History Month Open House on **Sunday, February 26th at 2pm**. We invite you to join us for this special afternoon where we celebrate all the amazing accomplishments that African-Americans have made to the Benson community.

For the 2017 event, the Museum Board is proud to recognize one of their own. **Peggy Alford** is well known throughout Benson from her long career at Chicopee Industries and her countless volunteer hours dedicated to her family, her community, her church, and the Benson Museum of Local History. Peggy has dedicated her life to making Benson a better place for all of its citizens, and we are proud to honor her this year.

Community Calendar

- Business Watch 12pm 2/2
- Museum Coffee Hour 10am 2/3
- Town Board Meeting 7pm 2/7
- Pre School Story Time 10am 2/8
- Daddy Daughter Dance 7pm 2/11
- Pajama Story Time 6:30pm 2/13
- Community Watch 7pm 2/16
- Pre School Story Time 10am 2/22
- Town Board Meeting 7pm 2/23
- BPRD Senior Games Registration Deadline 2/24
- Black History Month Open House 2pm 2/26

Economic Development Strategic Planning

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

The Town of Benson will be working with the NC State University Economic Development Partnership over the coming months to develop a strategic plan for future economic growth in Benson. You are invited to participate in planning sessions held in conjunction with Benson Board of Commissioners meetings from January through May. Please join us on the following dates to give your feedback, and see presentations by the NC State Economic Development Partnership as we shape Benson's future!

January 31, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29. All meetings at 7pm.



TOWN DIRECTORY

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Parks and Recreation Update



Spring Sports

The Benson Parks and Recreation Department will accept registrations for spring sports through **February 25th!** Sign up now for tee-ball, wee-ball, baseball, softball, adult basketball, volleyball, and flag football!

Senior Games

Be sure to sign up by **February 24th** for the Senior Games sponsored by the Center for Active Aging! Competitions range from athletics to visual arts.

For more information contact the Benson Parks and Recreation Department at 919-894-5117.

Pajama Story Time



Join the Mary Duncan Public Library on **Monday, February 13th at 6:30pm** for Pajama Story Time!

Each month the library hosts pajama story time to give families this free opportunity for an enriching library program just before bedtime.

In February, the library will be hosting *Dancing Stories* performed by professional story teller and dancer, April Turner.

April's program educates kids about the importance of African storytelling, dance, and culture. Join us!